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the Commissioner for the year ending June, 1895, comprises reports on the propagation and distribution of food fishes, by W. C. DeRavenal; on food fishes and fishing grounds, by Richard Rathbun; and on the statistics and methods of the fisheries, by H. M. Smith. In addition there are several papers based on the work of the Commission. These comprise the investigations of the steamer Albatross by Lieut. Com. F. J. Drake; Biscayne Bay as a Marine Hatching and Experiment Station, by H. M. Smith; Transplanting of Eastern Oysters to Willapa Bay, Washington, by C. H. Townsend; Description of a New Shad from Alabama, by B. W. Evermann; and a Check-List of the Fishes and Fossil-like Vertebrates of North and Middle America, by D. S. Jordan and B. W. Evermann.

These various papers demonstrate the importance of the work carried on by the Commission, both from an economic and scientific standpoint. From year to year this organization accumulates and records an immense amount of information that stands for all time as reliable data.

**Hand-book of British Birds.**<sup>3</sup>—This book comprises an enumeration of every species of birds on the British list, with descriptions of nearly all the species named. Records of the rarer forms have been carefully collected, and a tolerably complete life-history of the common species is given. In the nomenclature the author adopts the American system of trinominals, as he sees no other way of allowing a name to a recognized race without giving it the rank of a species. In all, Mr. Swann recognizes 381 species which are referred to 208 genera. The volume constitutes a handy reference book for the student afield.

**A List of Periodicals.**—Nearly twenty years ago a small pamphlet was published containing a list of scientific periodicals, transactions of learned societies, etc. accessible in the libraries in the vicinity of Boston. The list became antiquated and has long been out of print. In the present year the Boston Public Library has taken up the same idea and the result is a list of periodicals, etc.,<sup>4</sup> which must be of the greatest value to students in any line as it is a catalogue of the largest collection of serial publications accessible in any locality in America. Unlike its modest predecessor, it is not limited to science but embraces the periodicals of all kinds contained in thirty-six libraries in Boston,

<sup>3</sup> A Concise Handbook of British Birds. By H. Kirke Swann. London, 1896.

<sup>4</sup> A list of periodicals, newspapers, transactions, and other serial publications currently received in the principal libraries of Boston and vicinity. Boston: The Trustees of the Public Library, 1897, pp. 143.

Cambridge, Somerville and Jamaica Plain. The titles are given and with each title are index letters indicating in which library the periodical may be found. Numerous cross references add to the value of the list, which, while intended for students in the neighborhood of Boston, will prove of great value to investigators in any locality.

In this connection we might call attention to the fact that the Boston Society of Natural History published,<sup>5</sup> a few years ago a list of serial publications currently received in its library and that it has now issued a supplement to this list as well as a list of discontinued serial publications in its library<sup>6</sup> of about four hundred titles.

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## General Notes.

### PETROGRAPHY.<sup>1</sup>

**Igneous Rocks of Trans-Pecos, Texas.**—The igneous rocks intrusive in the sedimentary series of Trans-Pecos, Texas, according to Osaun<sup>2</sup> comprise plutonic, dyke and effusive types belonging to a series of rocks rich in soda. They are characterized by the possession of alkaline pyroxenes and amphiboles (aegirine, aegirine-augite and arfvedsonite), of micropertthitic intergrowths of orthoclase and albite, and of riebeckite, lavenite and a mineral resembling ainigmatite. In the Apache Mountains the plutonic rocks are accompanied by dykes of paisanite, tinguaita and bostonite. The intrusive phases of this series are eleolite-syenites, normal and porphyritic varieties, aegirine-syenites and normal syenites. The dyke rocks identified are tinguaita, bostonite, paisanite, (see analysis I, below), and the effusives are rhyolites and phonolites. Several of these rocks have been noticed in the reports of the Texas Geological Survey.<sup>3</sup> The paisanite is regarded as a quartz bearing member of the gromdite-tinguaita series as found in the neighborhood of Christiana. The Texan phonolite is of such a peculiar type that it has been designated as apachite. It occurs in two laccolites and in sheet form. The rock is composed of phenocrysts of sanidine and nepheline, the latter often surrounded by rims of amphiboloids in a

<sup>5</sup> Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. XXVI, 1894.

<sup>6</sup> Proceedings, vol. XXVIII, 1897.

<sup>1</sup> Edited by Dr. W. S. Bayley, Colby University, Waterville, Me.

<sup>2</sup> Min. u. Petrog. Mitth., XV, p. 394.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. AMERICAN NATURALIST, 1894, p. 514.